

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, this bill deals with social work certification. The original bill called for a master's level social workers to get what is called certified, and the bachelor's level social workers would get registered, but in other legislation that we were looking at, the concept of registration is that anybody can do a certain kind of activity, all they have to do is register. You don't have to meet any qualifications. To meet qualifications, you usually have what is called certification. So there is a terminology problem. So all this amendment does primarily, there is some other clean-up language that is included, but it says instead of having a certified and a registered social worker, you will have a certified master social worker for those with the master's degree, and just a certified social worker for those with a bachelor's degree. So that it is a little more clear as to the level of training and also doesn't get the registration term mixed up with some other legislation that we are dealing with. The little changes in the amendment are technical in nature, just trying to clean up some language problems in the bill. This has been worked out with the Social Workers Association and the Department of Health. I would ask for your adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz, please. Okay, Senator Smith, on the amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I ask a question of Senator Wesely please. Senator Wesely, I received a lot of mail in the last few days regarding the concern that some groups have about the fact that they may be forced into a position to hire only certain kind of social workers, would you address that, and I would like to make sure that we have a clarification on that issue?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, that is a good point and I almost...I am glad you brought it up, Senator Smith. Included in this amendment is to make it clear that nobody will be required to hire a social worker as a result of this legislation. That won't change anything. There is a specific section included in here that I can read to you but it is in the